

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Prime Minister PAEK Tu-chin said at a press conference on 24 April that fertilizer the ROK had recently imported from Japan could have been imported from Europe at a savings of US \$3.50 per ton, transportation costs included. PAEK made this statement while defending the ROK stand in the controversy over cancellation of letters of commitment by the Foreign Operations Agency (FOA).

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Comment. According to translations from the ROK press, PAEK, at this same news conference, also defended the ROK's right to buy where it pleased. He said it was unreasonable of the FOA to ask the ROK to buy products in Japan made from raw materials not originating in Japan. He also hinted that the ROK might withdraw entirely from the FOA program if the whole matter is not settled satisfactorily.

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